

LAWS OF MARYLAND.

him to apprehend such person or persons, and bring him, her or them before some judge or justice of such county or city, and upon the return of any such warrant, such judge or justice, before whom the same shall be returned, is hereby authorised and empowered to inquire by all lawful means whether such free negro, or mulatto, is an offender under this act, and if it shall be made appear to the satisfaction of such judge or justice, that such person is such an offender, then in such case, such judge or justice is hereby directed, forthwith, to order such free negro or mulatto to give security for his good behaviour in a penalty not exceeding thirty dollars, or on default of such security, to order such free negro, or mulatto, to depart the state within fifteen days; and such free negro or mulatto, refusing to comply with this act, or after leaving this state, shall again return within six months, may be again taken up and carried before some judge or justice of the peace, who may commit the said free negro, or mulatto, to the common goal of the county; and in case such person or persons, so committed, shall not within twenty days thereafter, pay his or her prison charges, it shall and may be lawful for the sheriff of such county, wherein such person or persons, shall have been committed, with the approbation of any two justices of the peace of such county, to sell such person or persons, to serve for a period of time not exceeding six calendar months, and the money therefrom arising, after payment of the charges incurred by such commitment, to pay over unto the justices of the levy courts of the respective counties, for the use of said counties: *Provided*, That if any such free negro, or mulatto shall consider himself or herself aggrieved by the decision of such justice of the peace, the person so aggrieved thereby shall have the right to appeal therefrom, to the next county court, upon giving reasonable security for appearing before said court and prosecuting said appeal: And provided also, that if such negro or mulatto shall within the said fifteen days, from the date of the said order of the said judge or justice that such negro or mulatto shall depart this state, hire him or herself to some responsible citizen of this state for three months, then and in that case such negro or mulatto shall not be compelled to depart in compliance with the said order.

Dec. Sec. 1823

Providg.

2. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the said constables, and they are hereby directed to make diligent enquiry into the condition of the children of free negroes and mulattoes, and wherever they find the children of free negroes and mulattoes, the parents or protectors of whom have no visible means of supporting and clothing such children; and such children being at an age sufficient to be bound out as an apprentice; immediately to lodge such information with the orphans court, or some justice of the peace of his county or city, who shall cause such children to be brought before them or him, and proceed to bind them out as apprentices agreeably to the act for the better regulation of apprentices and its supplements.

Respecting
children
of
free negroes.